

VELD TRAILS

(OFFICIAL ORGAN OF TRANSVAAL ROVERS)

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EDITORIAL LICENCE

Although the shortest month in the year, February has set a standard which will not easily be surpassed by any other month of 1939. It has been a month of increased enthusiasm. A little grousing in the last issue of Veld Trails has apparently had its effect because contributions have rolled in in sufficient number to make it possible for us to publish on the proper day for the first time since the new scheme was decided upon.

We have also become more of a newspaper, and we hope that the efforts which have been made in this issue to keep you in real touch with what is going on will meet with your approval.

The Transvaal Rover Scout Committee met at the Y.M.C.A. and was well attended. Here again a great deal of enthusiasm was manifested, and we were informed of the possibility of several new Crews being formed in the city.

This is good news indeed, for we cannot have too many Crews.

Plans have also been completed for the Transvaal Rover Scout Camping competition and details will be found elsewhere in this issue. We urge all Crews to lend this function their fullest support.

We have also decided to inaugurate the Hike Bureau with a competition.

Last month saw the birthday of our beloved Chief and also of the Chief Guide. Greetings were sent on behalf of Transvaal Rovers by the Rover Committee, and as a birthday gift to the Chief, we suggest that you throw your fullest energies into Rovering, so that it may become the great and uplifting force in the world which he intended it to be.

Yours in Scouting,

Claude L. Cook.

EDITOR.

VELD TRAILS.

Veld Trails is the Official Organ of the Rover Scout Branch of the Boy Scout Movement in the Transvaal. It is published on the 5th of every month, and the subscription, payable strictly in advance, is 2/6 per annum.

Veld Trails' address is
25, Orchard Road,
Orchards.....JOHANNESBURG.

Copy for the next issue should be in the hands of the Editor by March 20.

SUPPORT YOUR MAGAZINE, ROVERS.

PLANNING THE CREW PROGRAMME

(article No. 3)

This month 1st St. Patrick's, la Rochelle, send us some specimen programmes, which were actually used with considerable success during the first part of last year. Owing to the shortness of the notice, the R/S/L was able to send me only the outline of their programmes, but from the series sent in it would appear that the general scheme is as follows:-

Each meeting is divided into four sessions. The first two, lasting half an hour each, are spent in dealing with various Scout activities, a different member of the Crew being held responsible for one of these sections each week.

After the work comes a fifteen-minute session for games, and this is followed by an indefinite period for tea, minutes business, hot air, and other similar Rover Activities.

Here are a few of the specimen programmes:-

JANUARY

- 5th: Demonstration of Eye splice (by member of Crew, of course) semaphore signalling; game; tea, minutes etc.
- 12th: Upper Arm fractures; estimations; game; tea etc.
- 19th: Scout signs; making gadgets (practical) game etc.
- 26th: Open air programme.

FEBRUARY

- 2nd: Open air programme: stalking.
- 9th: Strip mapping - each Rover to map his route from home to the Den. Union Jack and how to fly it; game, tea etc.
- 16th: Straight splice; sense of hearing tests; tea games etc.
- 23rd: General puzzle night (one hour) games tea etc.

I will not continue the programmes in detail, but other subjects which interested St. Pat's were:- ten minute talks by each member of the Crew; a visiting speaker; Crown splices; discussions of portions of "Rovering to Success Talk on Poisons; Kim's game; debate - "Has Civilisation Improved the Native?" talk on Tracking; Gadget making in practice; campfire and singsong in the open; talk on the Scout Stave and its uses; planning camp menus and programmes.

The foregoing contribution from St. Pat's should supply other Crews with a lot of new ideas -- which is the underlying purpose of this monthly feature. This month I have had to arrange the notes and tabulated information sent in to me by the Skipper of St. Pat's into the form they now occupy in the mag. But other Crews who may be called upon for programmes needn't think I am going to do the same. The only reason why St. Pat's were excused is because they had only three days' notice in which to send in their contribution, but from future Crews we expect complete schemes and programmes written out or typed ready to be put straight into the magazine.

For the April issue, we call upon the 4th BENONI CREW to supply a set of model programmes.

Letters expressing the usefulness or otherwise of this feature would be appreciated by

THE EDITOR.

"SCOUT MOVEMENT NEEDS MAN-POWER"

THE MAYOR

The Boy Scout Association was described by the Mayor of Johannesburg Mr. J.J. Page, as "the premier youth movement of the world," and as an organisation of which such dictator countries as Germany were afraid, when he addressed the annual general meeting of the Johannesburg North-Eastern District Boys Scout Local Association last week.

Mr. Page emphasised, however, that the men and women who acted as officers in the Boys' Scout Movement had to feel that they had the support of the community as a whole behind them in their work.

Scouting had taken on an international character since its inception.

Strange accusations were sometimes brought against the movement, continued the Mayor. It had been accused of being militaristic, but the Scout Law supplied a complete answer to this. Peace could never be endangered by an association having as its aims trust, usefulness, brotherliness, courtesy, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thrift and cleanliness.

There was a wide field in Johannesburg for the establishment of more Scout groups, but the movement's main need was for more man-power, both as officers and as members of groups and district committees.

"I think I should express the city's appreciation of the splendid work done by the many men and women who are already leaders in the movement," he said. "They are making a vital contribution to the welfare of the nation."

After the business of the meeting displays of work and concert items were rendered by nine of the troops in the district.

Mr. A.J. Cook was elected chairman of the association and Mr. C.A. McDonnell vice-chairman.

WILL WALTER EVER ALTER?
THE WAIL OF WALTER'S MA.

Have you heard about my Walter?— sweeter
 boy you never met,
 And I know, for I'm his mother, and he's
 always been my pet,
 Gently nurtured in the purple, reared
 from birth on mother's milk,
 Now they've dressed him up in khaki —
 him that never was but silt.

CHORUS.

See a mother bowed in anguish o'er her
 pretty darling son,
 Born to play a harp with angels: but
 they handed him a gun.

Yes, he humps a horrid rifle that has
 kicked him black and blue,
 And they make him clean his tunic, and
 his belt and buttons too.
 Why, he even peels potatoes to the sound
 of oaths obscene,
 And he's got to fetch and carry like that
 creature Gunga Din.

See a mother bowed in anguish, and a
 son reduced to tears,
 While those cads of soldiers chortle
 as they swipe away their beers.

Now my boy can drink a milkshake, that's
 the strongest drink he takes,
 But I know he loves his dummy still, it
 soothes him when he wakes.
 And to think he sleeps with soldiers,
 who can drink and smoke and swear,
 Makes my bleeding heart keep bleeding,
 it's so bleeding well unfair.

See a mother bowed in anguish, with
 a heart that's fit to break,
 For they've labelled her dear Walter
 now "The Regiment's Milkshake."

VELD TRAILS COVER COMPETITION.

A little bleating in our last issue
 has apparently had its effect, because
 a number of really fine entries to the
 competition have arrived. The committee
 has decided to allow one further month
 for entries, and these must reach the
 Editor of Veld Trails not later than
 March 20. Each month one cover will be
 reproduced, and at the end of the series
 Crews will be asked to ballot for the
 best cover. The names of the artists
 will not be divulged until the competi-
 tion is decided, so self-conscious
 Rovers need have no fear of sending in
 as many entries as they like.

The only stipulations made are
 that the cover must incorporate the
 words "Veld Trails" and must make pro-
 vision for the month of issue. One
 thing which might be emphasised in view
 of the entries already received, is
 that WE WANT COVERS READY TO PRINT, and
 not a jolly good idea roughly sketched
 out, so that we have completely to re-
 draw the thing before we can use it.

Come on, you budding artists, and
 show us what you can do. This month
 we print the first of the entries to the
 competition. Surely you can do better?

TRANSVAAL ROVER CAMPING COMPETITION.

The Committee of Pretoria Rovers
 appointed by the Transvaal Rover
 Committee to make arrangements for the
 first Transvaal Rover Camping Competi-
 tion have announced the result of their
 efforts as follows:—

The competition which will be open
 to all Crews in the Transvaal, will be
 held over the week-end April 1 and 2.
 Crews are to meet at the hotel at
 Schoemanville, on the banks of the
 Hartebeestpoort dam by 3.30 p.m. on
 April 1. Cars may be left for the
 weekend at the hotel.

The contest, details of which will
 be announced only on the spot, will in-
 volve all forms of Scouting, including
 camping, cooking, hiking, mapping and

boating.

All Rovers are to wear full camping kit, and to bring their own tents and grub for three meals.

An entry fee of 1/- per head will be charged to cover costs, and to make a reserve fund for the Committee, which has considerable potty running expenses.

It is hoped that Rovers will support this endeavour, which is the first of its kind in the province.

As there is every likelihood of some Crews finding difficulty in getting to Schoemanville, those Crews who require "lifts" should leave the information with Miss Marsh at H.Q. before March 15. Other Rovers who have accommodation available in their cars are earnestly requested to leave this information at H.Q. by the same date, and arrangements will be made to put those requiring lifts into touch with those who have them to spare.

By pulling together, we should be able to ensure a good attendance at the competition.

many different places as possible. Maps must be drawn according to Gilwell and 1st class Journey standards, and in addition should be kept to a scale as nearly as possible of 2 miles to the inch.

Entries should reach the organisers on or before April 15. They should be addressed to:-

Rover A. Hartley,
P.O. Box 2162,
Johannesburg.

Prizes to the value of two guineas will be awarded. All maps entered will become the sole property of the Transvaal Rover Hike Bureau.

If every Crew has the energy to send in just one entry for this competition, it will mean that they will have at their disposal at H.Q. no less than fourteen different hike routes. The involved seems worth it in view of what will be accomplished. But there is no reason why Crews should send in only one entry!

INTER-CREW HIKE CONTEST TO INAUGURATE HIKE BUREAU COLLECTION

Arrangements have now been completed for the inauguration of the Transvaal Rover Hike Bureau, as suggested in Veld Trails some months ago. Rover Scout A. Hartley is in charge of the Bureau, and has made arrangements with an official of the A.A. to have assistance in making and keeping extra maps, and in obtaining the proper materials.

Now all he needs is a few maps from Crews. In spite of the request made in this paper for maps of hikes made by various Crews, there has thus far been no response at all. To start the ball rolling, Veld Trails is organising an Inter-Crew Hike Contest for maps made by Transvaal Crews.

The contest will be divided into two sections - one for maps made before February 28, 1939, and the other section for brand new maps. Any maps made in the past may be sent in for the first section, and entries for the second section may be made between March 1 and April 15. Crews may hike anywhere they wish, the idea being to get a collection of maps to as

TEACHER.

The other day I happened to park my car outside a red brick building while waiting for some one, and as I sat lazily watching the movements of a small bird on the fence surrounding the school, for that was what the building proved to be, I heard a voice and turning in its direction behold through an open window the owner.....and lo! it was a lady teacher. In one hand she held a pointer and was tapping the blackboard while the other pointed to some lad at the back of the class. Apparently his answer (if he had given one) was wrong for teacher was rating him soundly over his sloth and lack of interest, and as she held forth on his many failings my mind flew back, over a number of years to a classroom in the school where I had learned the three R's of reading, writing, and arithmetic. There at the old familiar table on a raised platform sat Miss Walker, teacher of the Standard Four class, thirty nine strong, a class that would have tried the patience of Job at his best. The same yellow jug without

a handle stood on the table with a bunch of honeysuckle crammed into it, a peace offering perhaps, while her blue rain coat hung behind the door unchanged and unfaded despite the passing of years. The same tiresome L.C.H. and H.C.F. sums stood on the board, multiples and common factors keeping company with a piece of English analysis and the History of the Great Trek. Hated subjects they were - the bane of our lives - and the cause of many a visit to the headmaster's office, but now they came back, pleasant wisps of memory, reminders of days that were the happiest of all days, when troubles were few and short-lived and lightly cast aside as the school bell clanged its metallic message of "School Out" down the corridors.

I can clearly recall every detail of my desk, the one I shared with Peter.... Peter.... Peter Dexter. The seat had a delightful habit of refusing to stay up at unexpected moments and further it had a knack, perhaps encouraged more often than not by its owners, of squeaking, not a small timid squeak, but a healthy, irritating, nerve-wracking sound which added a small measure of relief to the monotonous drone coming from the platform where Miss Walker was disclaiming on the Causes of the American War of Independence. I ask you - War of Independence - and here we were cooped up while the sun seemed to be shining brighter than ever before, and a distant view of waving tree-tops gave promise of sport that was fit for kings and weary schoolboys, when the very sky - "Smith, when was the Treaty of Independence signed?"...and back to earth and the cursed American War you came. But soon, very soon, the War of Independence faded again into that recess at the back of every schoolboy's head, a recess which at a moment's notice calls forth some brilliant reply when confronted by the dragon of Learning.

School out the wars and the treaties of the past were soon forgotten and with that carelessness of boyhood marbles and cricket, tops and kennettjie came into their own until 8 o'clock the next morning when the daily routine made one wonder whether life was worth living, and whether it would be easier to shoot a teacher than to poison one.

Yet, you dear Miss Walker's, every-one of you, in schools of then and today,

though you were the one dark spot in young Smith's life you were at times his goddess and his guide. Did you not sometimes notice a ruffled head with a twinkling pair of eyes regarding you with a devotion that was almost doglike, eyes that told you (if you were able to read them aright) that there was no other person on earth to compare with you in your tailor-made suit or gay summer dress that cost only 5/9 at the local Frocketeria. Sometimes too, didn't the oft-smudged arithmetic book seem a little neater as if its irresponsible owner had made an extra special effort which, after much rubbing out and altering, had passed muster as fit for a queen. Trials you had, countless trials and sore, but often rays of pure boyish sunlight made the way a little less hard and encouraged you to carry on and make future citizens, and engineers and lawyers, of those inky-fingered, dusty-shod lumps of trials and tears. And wasn't it worth it all when one of those disciples of mischief came to you with his troubles and more than once cried his little heart out when your kind woman's sympathy broke down all barriers of teacher and pupil and made him feel that here his troubles would find a solution and that he could rely on you, and when you called him 'Bobby' instead of 'Smith' didn't he make you his friend for life.

Yes, Miss Walker, even when Smith grows up he will still recall your face and voice, a voice that in hot summer days made you a tyrant and onomy worthy of the most painful of tortures known to the schoolboy code, yet at times a voice that made him resolve to do a little better next time. He will always recall, not your temper, for you had one you know, but your kindnesses such as when you gave him five out of ten for mental when he really should have had two, but what would his father have said had he failed. So here's a health to you, all the Miss Walkers in South Africa. May you long continue to tell Smith his faults and his failings (and they are many), but may you also lighten his school existence by acts of kindness worthy of a gracious lady.

"SCRAWLER"

HILLBROW BEREALOG CABIN

As we don't "open" Log Cabin every day of our lives we naturally want all our friends to be present at our official ceremony at Gilwell on Saturday 18th March 1939 at 3 p.m. The opening will be performed by our Divisional President Dr. Hans Pirow.

Although a "colossal" pile of invitation were sent out it is quite likely that we missed someone who would like to be present - so if you didn't receive one please accept this notice as an invitation.

I.F.

PARKVIEW CREW FIFTH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Those Rovers who have not received an official invitation to our party, please take this notification as such. The Parkview Crew are holding their fifth Birthday Party at the Rosebank Scout Hall on Saturday 25th March 1939 at 8 p.m. The idea is that it is being run as a children's party and all attending are requested to turn up in children's or baby's fancy dress. Entrance - free - DONT FORGET.

the date 25th MARCH 1939

"Cobber, it's up to me and you
To see that half his dreams come true...."

A popular South African paper published the news the other day that a number of well-known sportsmen in England had addressed a huge soccer crowd on the question of moral rearmament.

It has taken the world a long time to realize the need for self-examination. Since the days of the Great War the peoples of the world have been slipping back, back, back in an age of progress, losing their grip on all that was worth while and going they knew not where. There was no self-discipline, no control over their lives - they were like sheep following the crowd.

It took a world war scare to rouse them into something like consciousness again. The crisis - but six months gone - awakened them into action. And only then did they all realize where they were drifting. As long as the world had kept on turning, as long as civilization seemed safe they had carried on, madly, blindly, caring little for the faith of their fathers. Oh! they were sure of themselves, but when the day came and they were face to face with war, with utter and complete destruction, they could only arm themselves with guns and shells and gas - and how weak that all seemed. Hope was low, faith was gone. Then when Munich entered the pages of history a great sigh of relief and thankfulness swept over the world. We had been spared - for what. For rearmament! yes, but not only material rearmament, but the building up of ourselves in every walk of life that would make the world safer for us all.

Here is a practical quest for Rovers to follow. What are we doing today to help our country and ourselves? There are so many ways if we but look round.

Let us help to stamp out racialism, greed, selfish pleasure. Put your shoulders to the wheel of the wagon and see if we can make it move.

Where can we start? Follow the lead of the Mayor of Johannesburg - Back to Church - back to the faith that carried the Voortrekkers through the dangers of an unknown land into safety. Don't laugh until you've read this - don't criticize yet, but listen. The majority of us are too prone to run down the Church, too ready to laugh at the people who go, and leave ourselves on the right side of the fence.

The popular conception of "Church" is many-sided. Some regard it as a mortuary for corpses, others as a hot-bed of hypocrites, and a few as an earthly edition of a very dull heaven containing some exceedingly dull saints. Ask the average Rover why he doesn't go to Church (don't remind him, however, of his promise to do his duty to God) and you'll get an answer something after the style of the following:

The people who go are strangers to me; there's no one to welcome me.

I can't afford to put anything in the plate.

It's a bother having to get dressed and go out on Sunday night.

You've got to take whatever the minister chooses to speak on and it might not appeal to me.

Maybe there's something in this reasoning, but just change the theme from "church" to "cinema":

For many people the church is an institution interested only in baptism, marriage and burial. The first ceremony we haven't any say in and the last doesn't worry us but what about the marriage part? Why go to church to get married if you can't go to church to get that something out of Life which makes living worth while - the knowledge that there is something beyond the veil.

You may reply - in fact if you are a present day Rover with modern ideas you will - that you can get as much fun and zest out of Life on a hike or playing cricket. No doubt you do - for the time being - but there comes a time "when all the world is old, lad, and all the trees are brown". You can't go through life in a blazer and God won't take any notice of your bowling average.

This seems like a long sermon on the merits of being "good". If that's how it strikes you you don't need to read on any further.

What about it Rovers: One Sunday a month, morning or evening. Not a combined parade, just some evening on your own. Go and listen first and hear what this idea of religion is all about. Go to any of the many churches, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Christian Science, Spiritualistic, Dutch Reformed, go and find out - and then talk. But first give it a fair trial. It will give you some disappointments but it will also give you something to think about. And as Kipling says:

"When Crow and Captain understand
each other to the core,
It takes a gale and more than a
gale to put the ships ashore.
For the one will do what the other
commands
Although they are chilled to the
bone,
And both together can live through
weather
That neither could face alone."

IMPROVE OUR CIRCULATION.

We are trying, month by month, to give you a bigger and better magazine, and our efforts can be most fully rewarded by large increases in our circulation. YOU can help by making sure every Rover in your Crew is a subscriber, and by roping in members of your Group Committee and senior Scouts who will shortly become Rovers.

"ONLOOKER."

TRANSVAAL ROVER SCOUT COMMITTEE.

Good attendance but few ideas.

There can be no suggestion of lack of enthusiasm on the part of Transvaal Rover Crews in view of the attendance at the monthly meetings of the Transvaal Rover Scout Committee. At this month's meeting fourteen crews were represented, including crews from Johannesburg, Pretoria, along the Reef and from Witbank. Two Crews sent apologies.

The Chairman, R.S.L. Nimmo, complained that although attendances were good and the committee appeared to get through a tremendous amount of work, there was still nothing practical coming from the members. For years Rovers in the Transvaal had wanted an organisation of their own, he said, and now they had succeeded, after a long struggle in getting what they wanted, they did not know what to do with it.

"We have reached the turning point in Transvaal Rovering," he said. "It is for you Rovers to decide whether it is to live or to die. You have a fighting chance to make of Rovering what you wish. Transvaal Rovering is definitely not going ahead as it should; there is something wrong - something needed. And we look to you fellows to tell us what is wrong."

"If the present system of Rovering is alright, then it is the fault of you fellows that it is not working as well as it should. If it is the system that is wrong, then it is your job to change the system. Rovering is still in an experimental stage, and if any changes are needed, now is the time to make them. The Transvaal Scout Committee will do anything that is necessary, but your suggestions must be constructive. Now is your chance. Consult your Crews, and bring us a concrete scheme."

"We must make Rovering work better than it is. The Scout Council looks to you fellows for ideas --- is it going to get them?"

Mr. Nimmo complained that although delegates from the Crews attended the meetings of Committee, so far not one scheme which the Committee had considered had come from any member of the

Committee who was not either Chairman, Secretary or a member of the Veld Trails sub-committee. He felt that the rest of the members were not bringing in their quota of ideas.

Several members of the Committee expressed the opinion that Mr. Nimmo had been rather hasty in his criticism. Many of them came from small or recently formed Crews, and were too busy putting their own house in order to have a great deal of time to consider the wider aspects of Rovering in the province. None of them denied the accusation of not bringing ideas.

An indication of the splendid spirit which prevails in the Committee may be obtained from the fact that this criticism from the chairman in no way impaired the great deal of work accomplished by the Committee during the evening.

PERMANENT CAMPING GROUND.

The Committee considered a suggestion to obtain a permanent camping ground for scouts in the Transvaal. It was felt that should funds ever make the acquisition of such a ground possible, the Scout Council should take steps to secure a suitable site. The site would be situated somewhere within easy reach of all parts of the Reef and Pretoria, and would provide a pleasant alternative camping site to Gilwell.

LUNCH CLUB

R/S van Biene reported that he had discussed the proposal to make greater use of the Thursday Lunch Club with members of the club on several Thursdays, and after a certain amount of opposition had persuaded the majority that the club could be better run on more formal and constructive lines. Kon Fleischer H.Q. Secretary undertook to secure the first speaker for the re-organised club. The idea is that members of the club should have lunch between 1 and 1.30.; that some speaker should hold the floor from 1.30 to 1.50., allowing plenty of time to return to office.

The first speaker will be Commander Williamson Napier, who will discourse "Naval Affairs" on Thursday 2. The Committee expressed the hope that this

enterprise would be patronised by Rovers to a better extent than the Club has been in the past.

SUNDAY SOCCER LEAGUE.

The representative from the 1st Rosebank Crew brought the suggestion that his Crew be allowed to organise a Sunday morning Soccer League between Transvaal Crews. 1st Rosebank were prepared to do all the work in connection with the league.

Although the meeting appreciated the idea and the offer, it was felt that a regular league would impose too greatly on the over-full time of Rovers who were also officers, and who might wish to take troops out for camps etc. It was also thought that if the Committee gave its official blessing to the formation of the League (thereby giving the official sanction of H.Q.), this might elicit criticism from religious bodies.

The meeting decided, however, that there was no objection to the running of a series of friendly games between Crews, and it was left to Rosebank to arrange a series of friendly games to suit the various Crews. If possible a complete round will be played. The possibility of inter-town matches and Johannesburg vs. Pretoria and Reef matches was also mooted.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION.

A letter was read from the Secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association,

suggesting that as there was a considerable number of Rovers in the Transvaal who held the Society's Certificates, it might be possible to form a division of the Ambulance Brigade within the Movement. The division would wear Rover Uniform, and would serve both as Rovers and Ambulance-men. The Association also offered to organise classes where ever required.

After some discussion, the Committee decided that the formation of a definite Rover division would also impose too much on the time of Rovers who could not afford to specialise only in one branch of Rovering, such as ambulance work. Any Rover who was exceptionally keen on Ambulance work was at liberty to join the Association and serve as an ordinary member.

With reference to classes, it was decided to supply the address of the Secretary to Veld Trails, and any Crew wishing to commence classes, either as a

Crew or combined with other Crews, could communicate direct with the St. John Ambulance Association.

The address of the Secretary is

505/6 Stuttaford Chambers, Rissik and Pritchard Streets, Johannesburg.

"DO YOU DRINK YOUR BATH WATER?"

Asks our Health Expert

The pollution of rivers and streams near favourite camping places has caused a great deal of concern this summer, and Boy Scout camping has been very seriously affected.

There are quite a few misconceptions on this subject of water supply, and many scouts do not realise the risks they are exposing their boys to in not making adequate investigations into the purity of supplies.

The rivers and streams of S. Africa are polluted with manure and filth to a varying degree. The contamination may not be due to human beings; it may be due to animals. In my roving round the country, I have been amazed at some discoveries I have made, streams from the mountainside passing through swamps filled with cattle droppings, dead animals in the water, clothes being washed, and so on. Would you eat food that you know had been contaminated with cattle droppings, even though you could not see any dirt on the food? Water must be regarded as food. It is my experience that boys in camp drink more water than they do at home. The water they drink must be pure.

Do you drink your own bath water? Why drink somebody else's?

In the Berg River people bathe at a number of places, above and below your camp site, such people are not necessarily as careful as you are, and pollution occurs.

It is extremely unsafe to think that aeration and exposure to sunlight such as at a cascade in the river, kills all harmful bacteria, and it is the invisible bacteria that cause typhoid, the worst of waterborne diseases in this

MORE RUMINATION

country.

Clear sparkling water is not necessarily pure water.

Water from shallow wells should be regarded with suspicion, even though you think that there has been a filtering through sand.

The *Bacillus coli* test upon which the medical authorities rely for determining pollution or absence of pollution in a supply tells whether that supply has been contaminated with manure or sewerage or other such filth. When typhoid is known to be prevalent near a supply or even when the possibility of an outbreak is suspected, the authorities examine all waters, and if there is any sign of pollution they condemn the stream or well as constituting a possible source of typhoid due to the fact that it is contaminated with filth that may contain at some time the typhoid germ. To avoid serious outbreaks they cannot be too careful. It is no good saying "Oh, it is only contaminated by cattle and not humans." There is no guarantee that certain diseases of cattle cannot be transmitted to human beings.

Now, you may say, "What is to be done?" and I recommend the following where there is any doubt as to absence of pollution.

(1) All water for drinking should be boiled for at least five minutes. It should then be cooled and aerated. The aeration can be done by pouring from one container to another through a cullender. The water so treated should be kept in a special drum or tank marked "drinking water." The Scouts should be forbidden to drink elsewhere.

There are other methods of purifying water, but they are too complicated for general use, and really it is not much trouble to boil all the water a troop uses for drinking.

(2) Always enquire from the nearest medical officer whether in his opinion bathing can be safely conducted in any stream.

(3) Do not trust any water unless it is from a municipal supply or from a deep borehole, cased to rock, and hermetically sealed.

If in doubt, have the water tested by bringing a sample to your local health authority - and abide by his decision.

Good Safe Camping.

"WHITE FANG", B.Sc., A.I.C.
(by courtesy of "The RUCSAC"
Cape Western)

The Editor,
Veld Trails,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I was mightily interested in the "Ruminations of a Monoped" which appeared in Veld Trails last month. No! it wasn't the style that interested me, neither was it his many adventures, but just the fact that he lost a leg. Morbid! no, not a bit, but you see I, but for the grace of God and the skill of modern surgery, narrowly missed the doubtful pleasure of wearing an artificial leg.

I wonder how many of your readers have been laid up in a chair or a bed for two years at the best age of a boy's life - fourteen? Not very many - but those who have had that misfortune will never forget it.

In my particular case I was pretty fortunate in that I was a keen reader and thus many hours that would otherwise have hung heavily passed by with commendable rapidity. But not all of them. Sometimes a whole morning would linger on indefinitely - time seemed to stand still - each hour became two - and generally it was a very weary invalid who wished to God he could get up and walk away from the dullness of it all.

There are many ways of passing the time away besides reading. For instance there is the exhilarating pastime of spitting at flies not more than ten feet away. One becomes quite proficient in the art of "spit-firing". Then if one is not in killing mood there is the quiet game of "Holding your breath". Ever tried it? All that is required is a wrist watch with a second hand, a good pair of lungs and the rest is up to you. The procedure of the game is as follows:

Wait until the second hand of the watch reaches 60, draw in the breath slowly, and as the hand touches 5 close all exits and see how long you can hold your breath. I think my record was 95 seconds - I couldn't do it today - out of training!

Cricket was an exciting game. Not the kind you play with heavy rollers and appeals against the light but "Book cricket". You took a book - a railway timetable was best - then putting down the names of the players of both teams you

MORE RUMINATION

country.

Clear sparkling water is not necessarily pure water.

Water from shallow wells should be regarded with suspicion, even though you think that there has been a filtering through sand.

The Bacillus coli test upon which the medical authorities rely for determining pollution or absence of pollution in a supply tells whether that supply has been contaminated with manure or sewage or other such filth. When typhoid is known to be prevalent near a supply or even when the possibility of an outbreak is suspected, the authorities examine all waters, and if there is any sign of pollution they condemn the stream or well as constituting a possible source of typhoid due to the fact that it is contaminated with filth that may contain at some time the typhoid germ. To avoid serious outbreaks they cannot be too careful. It is no good saying "Oh, it is only contaminated by cattle and not humans." There is no guarantee that certain diseases of cattle cannot be transmitted to human beings.

Now, you may say, "What is to be done?" and I recommend the following where there is any doubt as to absence of pollution.

(1) All water for drinking should be boiled for at least five minutes. It should then be cooled and aerated. The aeration can be done by pouring from one container to another through a cullender. The water so treated should be kept in a special drum or tank marked "drinking water." The Scouts should be forbidden to drink elsewhere.

There are other methods of purifying water, but they are too complicated for general use, and really it is not much trouble to boil all the water a troop uses for drinking.

(2) Always enquire from the nearest medical officer whether in his opinion bathing can be safely conducted in any stream.

(3) Do not trust any water unless it is from a municipal supply or from a deep borehole, cased to rock, and hermetically sealed.

If in doubt, have the water tested by bringing a sample to your local health authority - and abide by his decision.

Good Safe Camping.

"WHITE FANG", B.Sc., A.I.C.
(by courtesy of "The RUCSAC"
Cape Western)

The Editor,
Veld Trails,
JOHANNESBURG.

Dear Sir,

I was mightily interested in the "Ruminations of a Monoped" which appeared in Veld Trails last month. No! it wasn't the style that interested me, neither was it his many adventures, but just the fact that he lost a leg. Morbid! no, not a bit, but you see I, but for the grace of God and the skill of modern surgery, narrowly missed the doubtful pleasure of wearing an artificial leg.

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Cricket was an exiting game. Not the kind you play with heavy rollers and appeals against the light but "Book cricket". You took a book - a railway timetable was best - then putting down the names of the players of both teams you

tossed who batted first. Supposing the teams were "De Aar Doubtfuls" versus "Varkons Vlei Intollectuals". Take it that the Varkons Vlei hopefuls had won the toss. All right! Hobbs opened the innings - he always did at that time - you take the Tino table in your right hand and with the left hand allow the pages to flip over in rapid succession until you decide to stop, look and score. Hobbs' score would probably be found amongst the Wolwohook - Heilbron - Petrus Steyn - Lindley dop's and arr's Maan, Dins, and Don. 154. The 1.54 a.m. train decided Hobbs' brilliant opening century. I remember once my tail enders put on 845 runs - thanks to the Padmotordionsto Index. And yet they talk about Hutton and his record scores!

Of course, there were other hobbies too. Respectable one's such as Mecanno building, Jig-saw puzzles. Talking about cross word puzzles reminds me of the story of the little boy who was found by a dear old lady crying his heart out. "What's wrong, my little man?" she asked. "Pa, spanked me for doin' cross word puzzles". "Surely not; there's no harm in that. What made him cross?" Well, number three down said 'drunk every afternoon' - three letters - and I put DAD."

Darts was an excellent game. You played for two persons usually - it's remarkable how busy some people are when a crooked schoolboy wants a little entertainment - and very close finishes were staged time and again. The whole secret of the game lay in the fact that the darts were attached to a length of fishing line to allow of their retrieval. I even played tennis against the wall of the house on summer afternoons after the same principle. A regular sport I was in those days.

Another entertaining "time-waster" was the mixing of some three dozen beads of different sizes in a box and then, with the eyes tight shut, separating them into their own particular class - the biggest on the right, the smaller ones next them and so on. It's amazing how proficient one can become at games like this.

There were naturally lessons to be done and sometimes the school boy in the chair became a most unnatural schoolboy in that he enjoyed the arithmetical problems of so many men building a wall in so many days, how long would it take five more men to do the same work at half

the rate of the previous workers. I used to muse on these copy book bricklayers and wonder whether they were all they were cracked up to be and whether they belonged to any Trade Union. "Lord Ullin's Daughter" was my favourite poem "A chieftan to the Highland's bound....." poor fellow I was always sorry he and his stolen bride were drowned in the dark waters of stormy Loch Islo. I became quite an expert on the mouth-organ at this time, but I'm afraid the rest of the household didn't see my views on the point of musical development.

Don't think, dear editor, that the time passed away so pleasantly always. There was for ever with me the pain of a plaster encased leg - from thigh to foot there was always the envy of those happy, fleet-footed school pals of mine - running, jumping, climbing, things which I once could do but would never do again. Football was not for the likes of me, swimming was but a word, and as for the untold joy of winning the 100 yards, the high jump or the hurdles - that would for ever remain untold.

I'm afraid my faith in a God - Young as I was - was nil then. That any God with the attributes of love and mercy should sentence a lad of fourteen to a life in a chair was past my childish reasoning. Unconsciously I became bitter, callous, I lost my sense of the beautiful in life, and reckoned all Christians as poor, deluded people. How my ideas were to change after I had no knowledge then but change they did, but that, as Kipling says, is another story. Suffice to say I am still in possession of two legs - slightly handicapped it's true - but whole and contented with this thing we call Life.

And so, Mr. Editor and "Monopod", I take leave of you both having, I hope, explained my interest in the article under review.

Sincerely thine,

"RUMINATOR II".

"Ruminations" would be welcome on any topic of general interest. We thank Ruminators I and II for their interesting papers.

ED----

SCOUT NEWS FROM

OVERSEA

SCOUTING AND NATIONAL SERVICE.BRITISH POLICE CHIEF ASKS FOR SCOUT AID

British Boy Scout officers have been considering the part the Movement could play in a national emergency, and the subject was discussed at the Annual Conference of County Commissioners and County Secretaries in London this month.

Opening the discussion, the Deputy Chief Scout, Lord Somers, said:- "The Scout Movement with its public service training is fully prepared to carry out any job of national service.

"It is essential, if we are to give of our best, that more care and training should be devoted to discipline and the spirit of friendliness, and in this connection a greater and better use of the Patrol system is needed so as to give the Scout more freedom and choice of action.

"There is an obvious immediate aim before all Scouters - to ensure that the training they give to Rovers and Scouts is such as to enable them to stand on their own and carry on without their leadership - in the event of any possible future emergency.

"There remains the question of the intensification of Scout training for national service and special arrangements should be made for training in connection with the following badges:- Ambulance, Coast-Watching, Cyclist, Fireman, Pathfinder, Signaller, Clerk, Cook and Missioner. These Scout proficiency badges will play an important part in the Scout's training for their work in national service."

Sir Philip Game, Commissioner of Police, who is a member of the Boy Scouts Council, was present at the conference and stressed the assistance which Scouts could render to the police. During the Coronation 1,500 Rover Scouts gave valuable assistance and Sir Philip Game hoped that in the event of a national emergency the Scouts, who had no

other job, would offer their services to their local police station. He would be pleased to have them.

WORLD INCREASE IN SCOUT MEMBERSHIP.

The Annual general meeting of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association was held in London on January 27th, Lord Somers, deputy Chief Scout, deputising in the chair for the Chief, who is in Kenya.

At this meeting it was revealed that the number of Scouts in the British Isles had increased by 16,000 during the past year, more than making up for the decreases of the past four years.

A message of goodwill was received from the Chief, and an inspiring address was delivered by the Duke of Connaught, President of the Boy Scouts Association.

16,000 INCREASE IN BRITISH ISLES.

The total number of Scouts (at the close of the Scout year 1938) in Great Britain and Ireland was reported as 460,234, an increase of 16,779 over the total for 1937. This remarkable increase shows that the decreases of the last four years have been more than made up.

The Scout section showed an increase of 5,490, Sea Scouts an increase of 109, Wolf Cubs an increase of 8,775, Rover Scouts an increase of 82. The number of Scout Officers holding warrants and on probation showed an increase of 2,473.

Scouts in the British Empire, including British Groups in Foreign Countries, were given as numbering 1,009,671, a decrease of 45,880, the decrease being due to the secession of certain Indian mem-

bors to the newly-formed Hindustan Boy Scouts.

The World Census now being compiled shows remarkable increases in several countries, and it is estimated that there are now over 3,000,000 Boy Scouts existing in the 49 countries recognised by the International Committee.

LORD SOMERS PRESENTED WITH SCOUT WOOD BADGE.

At a little private ceremony in his office at the Boy Scouts' Imperial Headquarters on Wednesday, 18th January, Lord Somers, the Deputy Chief Scout, was presented with the Wood Badge by Sir Percy Everett, the Deputy Chief Commissioner. The Camp Chief, Mr. J.S. Wilson, was also present.

The Wood Badge is the only badge available for Scoutmasters, Cubmasters, Rover Leaders and Commissioners. The successful Scouter must have passed a theoretical study and a ten days' practical course at Gilwell Park, Chingford, or at some recognised training centre.

Lord Somers went through the training at Gilwell Park last August. While there he lived like an ordinary Boy Scout, and cooked his own food over a small hunter's fire, helped to bridge streams and joined in the games and hikes through the Epping Forest.

The Wood Badge consists of two beads on a leather thong, worn round the neck. The beads are replicas of the beads on the necklace of Dinizulu, the rebel Zulu chief-tain, captured by Lord Baden-Powell during one of his campaigns in 1888.

In making the presentation of the beads, Sir Percy Everett said that during his 31½ years in the Scout Movement he had performed many pleasant jobs, but none more pleasant than the honour of investing Lord Somers with the Wood Badge.

In Parts I and II Mr. J.S. Wilson vouched for the Deputy Chief Scout's willingness to learn and his keenness to absorb the spirit of Scouting.

For Part III, Sir Percy Everett voiced the whole Movement's opinion of Lord Somers, by saying that the Movement

had had no better news than when he became Deputy Chief Scout, and it was very proud and happy to have him as its leader.

Sir Percy also assured Lord Somers of the absolute loyalty and support of every member of the Scout Movement at all times.

THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTER TO RECEIVE DELEGATES AT BOY SCOUTS' INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester has graciously consented to receive the delegates to the Boy Scouts' Tenth International Conference which will be held at the Rainey Hall, Edinburgh, on the 26th, 27th and 28th July, 1939.

The Conference will be held after the World Rover Scout Moot which takes place at Monzie Castle, near Crieff, Perthshire, from the 15th to 26th July, and during the time the 8,000 Rover Scouts present will be spending the three days in Edinburgh.

The Duke of Gloucester will welcome some 150 delegates from over 30 different countries, and afterwards will proceed to the big display by Rover Scouts at the Murrayfield Rugby Football Ground, Edinburgh.

The International Conference is held biennially, the first being held at the spontaneous request of all countries represented at the first International Jamboree at Olympia in 1920.

KING AND QUEEN VISIT DISTRESSED AREAHELPED BY LONDON ROVER SCOUTS.

When Their Majesties the King and Queen visited South-West Durham on February 23rd they saw one of the hardest hit areas of the coal-mining industry.

Yet among the slag heaps and the silent shafts, they saw at least one bright spot, and that is an occupational centre and Sports ground at Tow Law, which the workless men have made for themselves with the financial co-operation of the London Rover Scouts.

Tons of the slag had to be shifted by the voluntary workmen to level the sports ground, and the building of the occupational centre is said to be one of the most ambitious efforts of its kind in the country.

Tow Law is the village which the London Rover Scouts have adopted as their special care. They send £15 a month, collected in odd pennies, towards the upkeep of the centre, and it is this help that has encouraged the unemployed men in their efforts.

The Rover Scouts of Ilkley, Yorks, have adopted the village of Shildon on somewhat similar lines.

Every month money is sent to the villages and at Christmas extra money is sent so as to enable the kiddies to have tea parties. Collections of toys and old clothes are also distributed.

CREW FLASHES.ONAWAYO ROVER CREW (2nd BRAKPAN).

The Crew passed its first successful year. Scribe Johannes Conradie has had to resign owing to the pressure of work and study, but has been made an honorary Rover).

SCRIBE C. BEWICK
30, Wenden Avenue
BRAKPAN.

CREW FLASHES1st BELLEVUE.

The Crew approved of 'Pop' Bolton as Rover Leader, and this was later confirmed by the Committee. Frank Westoll is Rover Mate again and is taking the Crew on a hike on 4/5th March.

It was decided to have a crew hike the first week-end in each month - a member of the crew to be responsible for the venue each month.

Two-months' programme was drawn up, which includes a visit to the Rand Daily Mail offices; 15 minutes talk and demonstration on 1st Class Scout subject as First Aid, Signalling, etc., by four members of the Crew; talk by Mr. Toby Innis "Signalling through the Ages". One evening is being run by two members, a Scoutmaster and an old Scoutmaster and Rover Scout Leader.

1st ST. PATRICKS.

The crew are still very busy renovating the Den, but hope to have all O.K. by first week in March, when they will again settle down to the regular weekly Crew activities, and our new Mate will be able to show what he can do in the way of drawing up a programme for the next three months. He hasn't shown his form yet, but if he can fix up Crew Programmes as well as he can paint and hang paper, the Crew has a gem. The Den is real posh, and Crews are invited to send along one or two of their members to criticise - but no remarks are to be passed about the curtains. On 15th February the Skipper was welcomed back from his long holiday at the Coast.

PARKVIEW CREW.

During the last month, the Crew have been very active and among other things have completed the ceiling of the den. Had Jack Withey A/D/C. Rovers Natal, down to a Crew Meeting. Played Rosebank Crew cricket in pouring rain. Game ended in a draw, and although Rosebank scored 119 against our 111 in the first innings, Parkview went in